Reply of Government.—This will be expedited.

Subject No. 65
Rules relating to the property of minors.

Summary of discussion.—The present rules as regards minors and their property are defective. The Amildars should be empowerd to take immediate possession of movable property vesting in a minor and then apply to the Civil Court for appointment of a guardian or manager.

Reply of Government.—This cannot be done. It is for the persons leaving movable property to make suitable arrangements for its care and custody. Summary interference by officers of Government may lead to serious inconvenience and hardship.

Subject No. 66
Introduction of the Gambling Act.

Summary of discussion.—The introduction of the Gambling Act into Mysore is desirable.

Reply of Government.—Provision for the prevention of gambling in public gaming houses has been made in the Draft Police Regulation now under consideration.

Subject No. 67
A Regulation for Minor Municipalities.

Summary of discussion.—A Regulation for Minor Municipalities should be introduced.

Reply of Government.—A Draft Regulation has been prepared and is under consideration.

Subject No. 68
Appointment of Khazis by Govt.

Summary of discussion.—The introduction of the Madras Regulation regarding Khazis is requested. Persons other than those duly nominated often come forward to officiate as Khazis. This sometimes engenders factious spirit and leads to a breach of the peace.

Reply of Government.—The Madras Regulation relied upon (Act XII of 1880) does not prevent other persons from officiating as Khazis.

Subject No. 69
Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals.

Summary of discussion.—This act may be extended to the town of Malvalli. There is a jatka service between Maddur and Kollegal and the jatka ponies are very cruelly treated.

Reply of Government.—The Deputy Commissioner will enquire into this.

Subject No. 70
Local Fund Regulation.

Summary of discussion.—A Local Fund Regulation may be passed so as to enable,

(1) the Members of Local Boards being appointed by election and (2) the local cess levied in each taluk being utilized for the benefit of that taluk alone.

Reply of Government.—A draft Regulation has been prepared and is under consideration.

EXCISE.

Subject No. 71
Bagani trees.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) Information is solicited as to the new orders regarding Bagani toddy trees growing on land held under coffee tenure and the rights of such occupiers thereto.

(*b*) The proposed new tax on Bagani trees in occupied lands does more harm than good. The occupants of such lands pay kandayam for the same and ought not to be subjected to any restrictions as regards the number of trees to be tapped for their *bonâ fide* use, nor should they be compelled to allow the Excise officers free access to their lands. The prohibition against servants and laborers using the toddy of such trees should not be made applicable to jitgars and cattle boys to whom by mamul free drink is supplied by malnad landholders. This mamul cannot be dispensed with, without affecting the conditions of the labor market in the case of the smaller proprietors in Malnad.

Reply of Government.—(*a*) & (*b*). Under Section 15 of the Rules for the grant of lands for coffee cultivation, coffee planters are only entitled to draw toddy from Bagani or other trees in their estates for the making of bread or other *bona fide* domestic purpose, such as the making of jaggery. No officer of the Excise Department need go to coffee estates and number or mark the Bagani or other toddy yielding trees so long as toddy is drawn for merely the domestic purposes referred to of the proprietor of the estate or of his manager resident on the estate. In Madras the number of trees to be tapped for domestic purposes during a year is fixed at five, but having regard to the representations made, the number will be fixed here with reference to the requirements of each individual planter and intimated to him, and the marking of such trees will be dispensed with on the assurance of the gentlemen in charge of estates that they will not allow any abuse of this privilege. If, however, it is desired to use the toddy for drinking purposes or to lease toddy yielding trees under a private contract to the Government vend farmer, tree tax has to be paid and the trees on which it is leviable will be numbered and marked by officers of the Excise Department under the rules in force.

The case of holders of kans is different. They do not use toddy for making bread or other domestic purpose, but under the kan rules they are allowed to draw toddy from trees in their kans for the use of the members of their family and they may to this limited extent draw toddy for purposes of drinking without paying tree tax, the number of trees to be tapped being fixed under the orders of the Excise Commissioner with reference to the requirements of each individual holder, and the trees themselves marked. Toddy drawn from trees in kans cannot under the rules be used by the servants, laborers or other employés of the holders and when it is desired to draw toddy for the use

of these or to lease toddy yielding trees to the Government vend farmer, tree tax should be paid and the trees on which it is leviable will be marked by the Excise officers.

As regards the mamul alleged of the smaller malnad proprietors furnishing free drink to their jitagars and cattle boys out of toddy drawn from trees in their lands, enquiry will be instituted by Deputy Commissioners and on receipt of their reports orders will be passed.

Subject No. 72
Grant of land containing date trees.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) Lands containing date trees may be ordered to be given out for cultivation.

(*b*) Prompt disposal of darkhasts for such lands is desirable and can only be secured by the discontinuance of the present practice of Abkari Inspectors reporting upon them to Amildars who in their turn seek the orders of the Deputy Commissioner.

(*c*) All reserved groves should be demarcated and all waste land not included within the limits of such demarcation should be promptly given out for cultivation when applied for even though they may contain a few date trees or may be situate in the vicinity of reserved groves.

Reply of Government.—(*a*) (*b*) & (*c*). Complete lists will be prepared and published of lands required to be reserved as toddy groves. Lands not included in them will be available for cultivation, and darkhasts will be disposed of as quickly as possible.

Subject No. 73
(a) Tree tax on date trees.

Summary of discussion. (*a*)—(1) One-half of the tree tax levied by Government may be paid to the owners of the trees tapped as the latter cannot make their own arrangements for having their trees tapped and are entirely at the mercy of Government farmers.

(2) Some distinction should be made between trees in occupied land and trees in Government land so that the owners of the former may share in the realizations from the tree tax.

(3) Occupants of both alienated and unalienated lands are entitled to the full benefit of the revenue derived from the trees standing thereon.

(b) Tree tax in Inam villages.

Summary of discussion. (*b*)—The tax collected from date trees in Inam villages should go to the Inamdars.

Reply of Government.—(*a*) and (*b*). Tree tax is different from tree rent to which latter owners of lands are entitled. The scheme will be carefully considered before final orders are passed.

Subject No. 74
Cases of removal of date leaves by raiyats should be disposed of on the Revenue side.

Summary of discussion.—Raiyats are criminally prosecuted for occasionally cutting and removing date leaves for making ropes, c., for agricultural purposes; such cases should ordinarily be dealt with and disposed of on the Revenue side.